

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ronald L. Hollis et al.
Serial No.: 09/736,555
Filed: December 13, 2000
For: Instantaneous Price Quotation System For Custom
Manufactured Parts
Group Art Unit: 3628
Examiner: Nelson
Attorney's Docket No. N6732
Customer No. 23456

SECOND DECLARATION UNDER RULE 131

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

1. The undersigned Applicants make the following declaration in order to show that the invention which is the subject of the present application was reduced to practice in this country prior to the October 8, 1999 filing date of U.S. Provisional Patent Applications No. 60/158,250 and 60/158,316, which relate to Thompson et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,810,401. All of the activities described below took place in the United States.

2. Our invention substantially as shown and described in our pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/736,555 filed December 13, 2000 was conceived and reduced to practice in the United States prior to October 8, 1999. This was accomplished by the building and testing of a Beta test site for the website subsequently found at www.quickparts.com and owned by the assignee of the present invention.

3. Exhibits 1A-1E attached hereto are copies of a number of screen shots from the Beta test site. These screen shots were created prior to October 8, 1999. The dates have been redacted from the Exhibits, but they are all prior to October 8, 1999.

4. The Beta test site was set up on a Beta test server located at a company named Revnet located in Huntsville, Alabama. We tested the Beta site by accessing it over the Internet from our computers located at Quickparts.com, the assignee of the present invention, also located at the time in Huntsville, Alabama. Our computers at Quickparts.com functioned as the "Beta test client computer" as that term is used in the following description. The "Beta test client computer" may also be referred to as a "Beta test customer computer".

5. The Beta test server site was tested by accessing the Beta test server over the Internet and uploading dozens of CAD files for custom designed parts to the system. This data was then analytically compared to non-automatic quoting data to verify and validate accuracy. This data was also validated with third party sources for pricing information. The Beta test site was used to verify the concept and capability to automatically generate a price for a custom part over the Internet. This testing was conducted by the undersigned inventors. Over a period of several weeks prior to October 8, 1999 we conducted hundreds of such tests. We proved that we could access the system via the Internet; upload a customer's unique CAD data; analyze the data substantially instantaneously and accurately; generate an instant price quote for the customer data; and present that price quote to the customer.

6. The following explanation of Figs. 1A-1E is provided to show the correlation between the system represented by those figures and the invention as

claimed in the present application; these screen shots are the screens as they were viewed on the Beta test client computer:

(a) Exhibit 1A illustrates the procedure for the Beta test client or customer to upload from the Beta test client's computer system to the Beta test server computer system one or more CAD files describing the custom manufactured part which is to be quoted.

(b) Exhibit 1B illustrates the selection by the Beta test client of:

- 1) the quantity of each part to be quoted;
- 2) one of a plurality of available manufacturing processes, in this case SLA, SLS , FDM or MJM;
- 3) the surface finish desired; and
- 4) the delivery time.

An instant price quote is displayed at the bottom of Exhibit 1B.

(c) Exhibit 1C is the same screen as Exhibit 1B, but it illustrates the Beta test client making a change in selections, and a revised instant price quote is displayed.

(d) Exhibits 1D and 1E illustrate the display of a firm price quotation for the custom manufactured part as it would be viewed on the Beta test client's computer after having been transmitted to the Beta test client computer over the Internet. The Beta test client could then simulate a purchase of the part online based upon the price quotation.

(e) The price quotations, as they were generated on the Beta test server prior to October 8, 1999, were prepared by analyzing the Beta test client's CAD file on

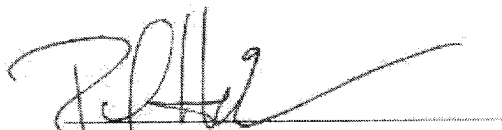
the Beta test server computer system, without human intervention, to determine one or more manufacturing criteria for the custom manufactured part. Then the firm price quotation was calculated in the Beta test server computer system based upon the one or more manufacturing criteria, and transmitted to the Beta test client computer. This calculation was performed substantially instantaneously with a pre-programmed pricing formula in the form:

$$\text{price} = a * V + b * H + c;$$

where a, b and c are preprogrammed constants, where V is the volume of the part, and where H is a vertical dimension of the part in a selected orientation.

(f) The selected orientation of the part was selected to minimize H and thus minimize the calculated price. The one or more manufacturing criteria included the volume of the part. The pricing formula included a finish charge dependent upon a selected finish and the surface area of the part. The pricing formula included a multiple part charge dependent upon the quantity of parts quoted.

7. We each declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the present application or any patent issued thereon.



Ronald L. Hollis

5/8/07


Date



Michael D. Maurice

8 MAY 07

Date

Ex. 1A**Quickparts.COM****Putting Rapid in Rapid Prototyping!***Online Quoting and Project Activation for Rapid Prototyping!*Review a previously quoted project **Q** [QuickQuote](#)**U** [What is Quickparts.com?](#)**I** [Privacy Policy](#)**C** [Quickparts.com Company Info](#)**K** [Quickparts.com Encyclopedia](#)

Upload Project Data

This form allows you to select the STL files you want quoted. Select each file and upload it. If you desire to remove a file from the list, then you can remove the file from below.

The files you upload will be considered a family of files, and will be efficiently oriented to optimize building platform space. If the files are too large to fit in a single build, then they will be split into multiple builds, as required.

STL FILES MUST BE IN ENGLISH UNITS

Select the File(s) to be quoted

File to process:

Uploading large file may take a while, please be patient

Here are the files you have selected to be quoted

eng-4761.stl
FRONT PANEL.STL
tube-d1.stl

Ex. 1B**Quickparts.COM****Putting Rapid in Rapid Prototyping!****Online Quoting and Project Activation for Rapid Prototyping!****Project Worksheet****Q QuickQuote****U What is Quickparts.com?****I Privacy Policy****C Quickparts.com Company Info****K Quickparts.com Encyclopedia**

This form lists the files you have selected to be quoted.

It is here that you select the Quantity and Service requested. Place cursor in the quantity field and type number required. To update the quoted price, click the UPDATE button at the bottom.

Verify the correct part files you want quoted with the Volume and X, Y, and Z information of your files.

Parts Selected To Be Quoted					
Part Name	Quantity	Volume	X	Y	Z
eng-4761.stl	1	0.05	1.1	0.5	0.4
FRONT PANEL.STL	1	8.05	2.9	14.6	1.2
tube-d1.stl	1	0.8	4.3	1.2	0.5

Select the Rapid Prototyping Service you desire for these parts.

Service Requested			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> SLA	<input type="radio"/> SLS	<input type="radio"/> FDM	<input type="radio"/> MJM

Select the Quality and Service levels you need for this project. Refer to the Quickparts.com Encyclopedia for descriptions of our Quality and Service.

Quality	Service
<input type="radio"/> Low (Supports removed)	<input type="radio"/> Slow (6-8 days)
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Standard (Smooth surfaces)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Standard (3-5 days)
<input type="radio"/> High (Primed finish)	<input type="radio"/> Fast (1-2 days)

Your Quoted Price for These Files: \$507

If you would like to change this family of files, then click the Back button and reselect your files.

When you are satisfied with the family of parts to build, then click the DONE button. A formal quotation will be presented for you to process.

Back Update Done

Ex. 1C**Quickparts.COM****Putting Rapid in Rapid Prototyping!****Online Quoting and Project Activation for Rapid Prototyping!****Project Worksheet****Q** [QuickQuote](#)**U** [What is Quickparts.com?](#)**I** [Privacy Policy](#)**C** [Quickparts.com Company Info](#)**K** [Quickparts.com Encyclopedia](#)

This form lists the files you have selected to be quoted.

It is here that you select the Quantity and Service requested. Place cursor in the quantity field and type number required. To update the quoted price, click the UPDATE button at the bottom.

Verify the correct part files you want quoted with the Volume and X, Y, and Z information of your files.

Parts Selected To Be Quoted					
Part Name	Quantity	Volume	X	Y	Z
eng-4761.stl	5	0.05	1.1	0.5	0.4
FRONT PANEL.STL	3	8.05	2.9	14.6	1.2
tube-d1.stl	2	0.8	4.3	1.2	0.5

Select the Rapid Prototyping Service you desire for these parts.

Service Requested			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> SLA	<input type="radio"/> SLS	<input type="radio"/> FDM	<input type="radio"/> MJM

Select the Quality and Service levels you need for this project. Refer to the Quickparts.com Encyclopedia for descriptions of our Quality and Service.

Quality	Service
<input type="radio"/> Low (Supports removed)	<input type="radio"/> Slow (6-8 days)
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Standard (Smooth surfaces)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Standard (3-5 days)
<input type="radio"/> High (Primed finish)	<input type="radio"/> Fast (1-2 days)

Your Quoted Price for These Files: \$971.62

If you would like to change this family of files, then click the Back button and reselect your files.

When you are satisfied with the family of parts to build, then click the DONE button. A formal quotation will be presented for you to process.

[Back](#) [Update](#) [Done](#)

Ex. 1 D

Quickparts.COM*Putting Rapid in Rapid Prototyping!**Online Quoting and Project Activation for Rapid Prototyping!***Your QuickQuote****Q** [QuickQuote](#)**U** [What is Quickparts.com?](#)**I** [Privacy Policy](#)**C** [Quickparts.com Company Info](#)**K** [Quickparts.com Encyclopedia](#)

Here is your formal quotation for this project. You have the following options:

To **PRINT** the quote so that you can process it (click the Print button)

To **START** the project with a Purchase Order Number or Credit Card (Click Start button)

To **SAVE** the project to activate at a later time (Click the Save button)

Or to not activate this project and purge the system of your project data

Item	Name	Quantity
SLA-Eng Review	eng-4761.stl	5
SLA-Eng Review	FRONT PANEL.STL	3
SLA-Eng Review	tube-d1.stl	2
Total: \$971.62		
Additional Information		
Terms: Net 30		
Delivery: 3-5 days		
Quality: Smooth Surfaces		

I would like to PRINT my quote
now



I want to START my project now

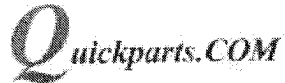


I want to SAVE my project for
future reference



I do not want to activate this project



Ex. 1E

1580 Sparkman Drive Ste. 212; Huntsville, Alabama 35816
256-830-8121; 256-864-0025 (Fax)

Quotation

Date: _____

Quote Code: 52

Customer Information

Company Name: Rapid Tech Engineering
Company Contact: Ron Hollis

FAX: 256 864-0025
Phone: 256 830-8121

Project Information

Item	Name	Quantity
SLA-Eng Review	eng-4761.stl	5
SLA-Eng Review	FRONT PANEL.STL	3
SLA-Eng Review	tube-d1.stl	2
Quote Total: \$971.62		

Additional Information

Terms: Net 30
Delivery: 3-5 days
Quality: Smooth Surfaces

By signing and faxing this quote to (256) 864-0025, you are accepting the terms of this quote and requesting that this order begin while you are in the process of producing a formal purchase order.

ACCEPTED BY:

Company Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____